

# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location: LUBBOCK, TX Accident Number: FTW92LA033

Date & Time: 11/30/1991, 1855 CST Registration: N73SW

Aircraft: BOEING 737-200 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: Injuries: N/A

Flight Conducted Under: Part 121: Air Carrier - Scheduled

### **Analysis**

THE FLIGHT WAS ESTABLISHED ON FINAL APPROACH FOR LANDING AT 190 KNOTS AND APPROXIMATELY 4700 FEET MSL ON A DARK NIGHT, WHEN IT ENCOUNTERED A FLOCK OF CANADIAN GEESE. ONE GOOSE PENETRATED THE PRESSURE BULKHEAD THROUGH THE RADOME. ANOTHER SPLATTERED DEBRIS OVER THE CAPTAIN'S WINDSHIELD, AND OTHERS DAMAGED FAIRINGS, WING ROOTS, AND KRUEGER FLAPS. THE FLIGHT CREW DID NOT SEE THE GEESE BEFORE IMPACT. THE FIRST OFFICER TOOK OVER THE CONTROLS FROM THE CAPTAIN AND LANDED THE AIRCRAFT WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT.

### **Probable Cause and Findings**

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH GEESE. A FACTOR WAS THE DARK NIGHT.

# **Factual Information**

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

| Aircraft Make:                | BOEING                                  | Registration:                     | N73SW              |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Model/Series:                 | 737-200 737-200                         | Aircraft Category:                | Airplane           |
| Year of Manufacture:          |   | Amateur Built:                    | No                 |
| Airworthiness Certificate:    | Transport                               | Serial Number:                    |                    |
| Landing Gear Type:            | Retractable - Tricycle                  | Seats:                            | 130                |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | 11/29/1991, Continuous<br>Airworthiness | Certified Max Gross Wt.:          | 115500 lbs         |
| Time Since Last Inspection:   | 7 Hours                                 | Engines:                          | 2 Turbo Fan        |
| Airframe Total Time:          | 32985 Hours                             | Engine Manufacturer:              | P&W                |
| ELT:                          | Not installed                           | Engine Model/Series:              | JT8D-9(A)          |
| Registered Owner:             | SOUTHWEST AIRLINES                      | Rated Power:                      | 14500 lbs          |
| Operator:                     | SOUTHWEST AIRLINES                      | Operating Certificate(s)<br>Held: | Flag carrier (121) |
| Operator Does Business As:    |   | Operator Designator Code:         | SWAA               |
|                               |   |                                   |                    |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

| Conditions at Accident Site:     | Visual Conditions      | Condition of Light:                  | Night/Dark       |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | LBB, 3281 ft msl       | Distance from Accident Site:         | 1 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time:                | 1851 CST               | Direction from Accident Site:        | 80°              |
| Lowest Cloud Condition:          | Unknown / 0 ft agl     | Visibility                           | 15 Miles         |
| Lowest Ceiling:                  | Overcast / 4000 ft agl | Visibility (RVR):                    | 0 ft             |
| Wind Speed/Gusts:                | 15 knots /             | Turbulence Type<br>Forecast/Actual:  | /                |
| Wind Direction:                  | 40°                    | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | /                |
| Altimeter Setting:               | 30 inches Hg           | Temperature/Dew Point:               | 1°C / -6°C       |
| Precipitation and Obscuration:   |                        |                                      |                  |
| Departure Point:                 | ALBUQUERQUE, NM (ABQ)  | Type of Flight Plan Filed:           | IFR              |
| Destination:                     |                        | Type of Clearance:                   | IFR              |
| Departure Time:                  | 1718 MST               | Type of Airspace:                    | Class E          |
|                                  |                        |                                      |                  |

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#### **Airport Information**

| ,                    |                  |                           |                 |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Airport:             | LUBBOCK (LBB)    | Runway Surface Type:      | Concrete        |
| Airport Elevation:   | 3281 ft          | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry             |
| Runway Used:         | 8                | IFR Approach:             | VOR/DME; Visual |
| Runway Length/Width: | 8001 ft / 150 ft | VFR Approach/Landing:     | Full Stop       |

### Wreckage and Impact Information

| Crew Injuries:      | N/A | Aircraft Damage:     | Substantial |
|---------------------|-----|----------------------|-------------|
| Passenger Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Fire:       | None        |
| Ground Injuries:    | N/A | Aircraft Explosion:  | None        |
| Total Injuries:     | N/A | Latitude, Longitude: |             |

#### **Administrative Information**

| Investigator In Charge (IIC):     | RAY WALL   | Report Date: | 03/31/1993 |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------|------------|
| Additional Participating Persons: | AL BOONE; DFW INT'L ARPT, TX   |              |            |
| Publish Date:                     |  |              |            |
| Investigation Docket:             | NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at <a href="mailto:publiq@ntsb.gov">publiq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/</a> . |              |            |

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available here.

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